- bringing said RNA obtained into contact with at least one probe having a nucleotide sequence which is capable of hybridizing specifically with a nucleotide sequence as claimed in claim 2[, said probe possibly being in particular an oligonucleotide probe as claimed in claim 3]; and
- detecting the presence of mRNA hybridizing with said probe, which indicates the expression of the NEP II polypeptide.--

Please amend Claim 12 as follows:

- --12. (Amended) A method for detecting NEP II in a cell or tissue sample or in cells or a tissue, comprising the steps consisting in:
- bringing said cell or tissue sample, said cells or said tissue into contact with a compound which is a substrate for the NEP II polypeptide, obtained according to the method of claim 9, or with a compound which is a inhibitor of the metalloprotease activity of NEP II, [obtained according to the screening method of claim 11,] said substrate compound or said inhibitor compound being labeled; and
- detecting the presence of said substrate compound or of said inhibitor compound, which is an indication of the presence of the NEP II polypeptide.--

Please amend Claim 13 as follows:

--13. (Amended) [The use of] A method of using the NEP II polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 for screening compounds which are inhibitors of the metalloprotease activity of NEP II, and which are useful for manufacturing a medicinal product intended for treating disorders involving the peptide transmissions in which NEP II participates.